been reported in a number of States, including Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the results of any inquiry conducted into these cases; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to coordinate with the State Governments to check further production and sale of the adulterated mustard oil?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The Government of M.P. has reported that consumption of mustard oil adulterated with argemore oil has led to around 347 dropsy cases from Shivpuri and 133 cases from Sheopur districts.

(b) and (c) A Central team comprising of a clinician, epidemiologist and toxicologist visited the Districts of Shivpuri and Sheopur of Madhya Pradesh and confirmed that persons affected were suffering from dropsy.

The Central team advised the State Government that Health workers should make house to house visits and pick up the patients who have shown dropsy symptoms in order to detect the cases and ensure their proper management and symptomatic treatment. They should also ban the sale of loose edible oil.

The team has reported that the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh has:

(i) banned the sale of loose oil.

(ii) Management of cases is being done in the district hospitals and serious cases are referred to Medical College, Gwalior.

The Central Government has also informed all the State/UT Governments. about the incidence of dropsy reported in Madhya Pradesh. They have been alerted, so that they may take necessary steps to prevent occurrence of dropsy in their States.

HIV tests

1553. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that free HIV test for pregnant women would be soon made an option;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for which Government have to come out with this idea?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to prevent transmission of HIV from an infected mother to her child, Government of India is in the process of up-scaling Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) programme. The programme has already covered 224 medical colleges/district hospitals particularly in six high prevalence States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland and Tamil Nadu. The programme provides a package of voluntary counselling and testing for HIV, primary prevention, counselling on infant feeding and Nevirapine prophylaxis to reduce the incidence of HIV among infants of HIV positive mothers.

Mortuaries in Government Hospitals

1554. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per a report filed by a forensic science expert it has transpired that most mortuaries in the capital's Government hospitals are ill equipped to conduct an autospy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for such dismal functioning; and

(d) the steps contemplated by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

AIDS cases

1555. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of AIDS cases reported, State-wise, during this year;

(b) the steps being taken to eradicate this deadly disease;